QR Codes

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**QR Codes**

**What are QR Codes**

**QR code** stands for Quick Response Code and is a type of two-dimensional [barcode](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barcode). The QR code was created in 1994 by Denso Wave, a subsidiary of Toyota and was used to track car parts in Japan.

A regular barcode like you find on food items gives only 1 dimension of information. It holds about 20 alphanumeric characters of information. 2D barcodes emerged because there was a need to place more information on a barcode. With barcodes, information is coded in 1 direction: across, but with QR codes information is coded in 2 directions: across and up/down. QR codes therefore allow for more information to be stored in a smaller amount of space. By incorporating square marks into the design, high speed reading of these codes became possible.

QR codes are very popular today and can store 100 times more data than a one dimensional code. A QR code consists of black square dots arranged in a square grid on a white background.

Some of the uses of the QR code are product tracking, item identification, time tracking, product information, accessing a website and much more.

**How does a QR Code work?**

A QR code contains coded information such as :

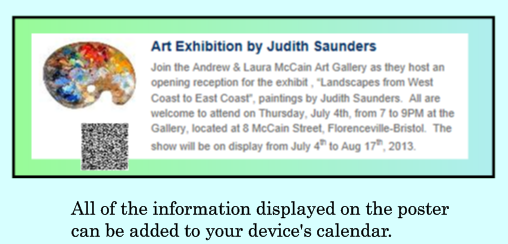
Website URL, Text, Youtube, Contact info, Text message, E-mail

The code can be read by an imaging device like a camera and the data on it interpreted and communicated to us. The app, I-nigma reader or QR reader, can be downloaded to scan QR codes.



**Creating a QR Code**

**How to Create QR codes**

There are several free sites that enable us to create a QR code. This is a site that is very easy to use with students.

<http://goqr.me/>

Simply type in the text, URL address, etc you want to use with the QR code and copy it.

**School / Classroom Ideas for QR codes**

* If a student gets lost, he or she can scan the QR code and be shown a detailed map of the school so that he knows which classroom to go and how to get there.
* If there’s a meeting arranged, or its classroom or time changed, students can always check it out on their device through the QR code.
* If teachers give practice exercises in QR codes, there’s no danger that the student loses the photocopy. Once scanned, the link to which the QR code is directed is recorded on the student’s phone or electronic device.

This is a great advantage for students who tend to be untidy and disorganized.



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